

REMARKS

Claims 3-4 and 7-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 4 and 7-15 are allowed.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Bashore in the September 8, 2004, personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Malik (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,701) in view of Himmel (U.S. Patent No. 6,211,871). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

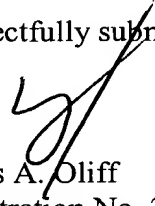
In particular, claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been canceled, and thus the rejection with respect to these claims is now moot.

The Office Action has indicated that claims 3-4 and 7-15 are allowed.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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